

where for many years members of the Entomological Club (instituted in 1826 with eight original members, of which Edward Newman was one) held their annual festivities.

This forms no.6 of *Classica Entomologica* in the series of facsimile reprints issued by the firm of E. W. Classey Ltd., Park Road, Faringdon, Oxon. It is printed on good paper, has an attractive cover and is similar in format to no. 5 (Rev. Greene's *Pupa Digger*) in the series. — J. M. C. -H.

## SOME RECORDS OF *SPHAEROPHORIA* (DIPTERA, SYRPHIDAE) FROM NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

By DR. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT\*

Recent papers by Speight (1973) and Kidd (1973) have directed the attention of dipterists to this genus. On the basis of the observations of these authors records of two species of *Sphaerophoria* seem worth noting.

*Sphaerophoria loewii* Zetterstedt. One male and two females of this species were taken by me at Leighton Moss, North Lancashire (V. C. 60.) on 5 July 1959. The determination has recently been confirmed by Dr. Martin C. D. Speight. Dr. Speight also suggested that the species seems to be associated, in the few localities from which it has been recorded, with *Scirpus maritimus* L. (Sea Club-rush). Dr. Geoffrey Halliday, of Lancaster University Botany Department, confirms that this species of rush is common along the southern boundary of Leighton Moss. Leighton Moss is a reserve for birds managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the only public access is across a central causeway. That was where the presently recorded flies were taken.

*S. loewii* does not appear to have been recorded previously in the north of England. Coe (1953) gives Kent, Hampshire and Dorset only. Dr. Speight, *in litt.*, tells me he had taken it in Ireland.

*Sphaerophoria philanthus* (Meigen). This species is apparently quite widespread but is considered uncommon. Kidd (1973) gives records of two specimens taken in the Grange-over-Sands area contained in the A. E. Wright collection housed in Oldham Museum. I have three males of this in my collection taken as follows:

VC 69. Sandscale Hawes Warren, 28 July 1978; Grange-over-Sands 8 August 1980.

VC 70. Armboth (on the west side of Thirlmere), 21 July 1980.

These localities offer widely different habitats — at Grange-over-Sands the locality is low-lying brackish marsh, Sandscale Hawes is sand-dune with little in the way of damp slacks, while at Armboth the specimen was caught in a small road-side clearing by the side of a conifer plantation. In his distribution records Speight *l. c.* notes records by Wainwright from Walney Island (VC69) and Drigg (VC70) — both habitats not dis-similar to the Sandscale Hawes locality.

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### References

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 Kidd, L. N., 1973. On the Occurrence of *Sphaerophoria philanthus* (Meigen) (Diptera, Syrphidae) in Britain. *Entomologist*, 106 : 223 - 224.  
 Speight, Martin C. D. 1973. British Species of *Sphaerophoria* (Diptera, Syrphidae) confused with *S. menthastri* (L.) including a Key to the Males of the Seven species of *Sphaerophoria* found in the British Isles. *Ibid.*: 228 - 233.

FURTHER OCCURRENCE OF STIGMELLA ACERIS (FREY) IN KENT. — One of my frequent brief roadside pauses produced a single vacated mine of this species on *Acer campestre* at Tilden Road, Ulcombe, near Maidstone on 9th September 1980, and apparently a new record for vice county 15. Up until 1976, this species was only known in Britain from two Kentish records, but I believe that of late it has been recorded from elsewhere in Britain. — N. F. HEAL, "Fosters", Detling Hill, near Maidstone, Kent.

APION SIMILE KBY. (COL. : APIONIDAE) IN S. E. LONDON. — For some obscure reason this birch-feeding *Apion*, not normally regarded as uncommon or even especially local, has always been very rare to me. I am inclined to think it must have become scarcer than formerly in at any rate the south-east, though in the 1950s or thereabouts Mr. J. A. Parry used to find it general in the Canterbury district. I had met with it, always singly, only at Mickleham (Surrey), Bricket and Knebworth Woods (Herts.), and Fleet (Hants.), and once swept one from a privet hedge in my former garden at Blackheath which must have come from some birches in the next garden. Finally, I was agreeably surprised to beat a female *A. simile* from a birch in my present garden at Charlton on 12.v.80, and a male from the same tree on 3.ix.80; the two captures together practically prove it to be breeding there. The host tree is plentiful in the district, but the same clearly cannot be said of the weevil. It might be expected, for instance, in the woods at Shooters Hill, but I could never find it there. — A. A. ALLEN.

RECENT INCREASE OF SPHAEROPHORIA RUEPELLII WIED. (DIPT. : SYRPHIDAE) IN N. W. KENT. — This small hover-fly is rightly accounted uncommon or rare as a rule; in the course of rather intensive collecting in my Blackheath garden from 1961 to 1973 it occurred only very sporadically, and in